

NCI's Office of Liaison Activities



Communicating and Collaborating with Advocates

Office of Liaison Activities
<http://la.cancer.gov>

National Cancer Institute
<http://www.cancer.gov>

National Institutes of Health
<http://www.nih.gov>

Department of Health and Human Services
<http://www.dhhs.gov>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF LIAISON ACTIVITIES (OLA)?

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) established the Office of Liaison Activities (OLA) to help strengthen the Institute's communications and relationships with national advocacy and voluntary organizations who work with consumer advocates, and scientific and professional societies concerned about cancer. OLA communicates and cooperates with these groups to promote common goals. The office disseminates information, seeks input and feedback from these organizations, and encourages partnering and collaboration with them.

WHAT DOES OLA DO TO INCLUDE CONSUMERS AT NCI?

OLA administers several programs to bring the voices of those affected by cancer into NCI activities and programs. NCI's goal is to work together to eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer.

CARRA – Consumer Advocates in Research and Related Activities

The CARRA Program includes almost 200 cancer survivors and others affected by cancer in a variety of different cancer types, ages, and backgrounds from across the nation. These individuals are called upon by NCI staff to represent a broad consumer/patient perspective in a wide range of NCI programs. CARRA members participate in the peer review of all clinical and translational research applications. They also participate in bioinformatics initiatives, education projects, Web site development, and other NCI activities.

DCLG – Director's Consumer Liaison Group

The NCI Director's Consumer Liaison Group is a Federal Advisory Committee of 15 consumer advocates who advise the NCI Director from the viewpoint of the cancer patient. Current DCLG initiatives include the *NCI Listens and Learns Web site*, to facilitate a transparent dialogue between the cancer advocacy community, the public and NCI; and planning the 2006 Listening and Learning Together patient advocacy summit at NCI for the cancer advocacy community.

NCI Listens and Learns

[*NCI Listens and Learns*](#) is a one-year pilot online forum initiated and overseen by the NCI and the DCLG. The Web site allows advocates and interested members of the public to participate in an open dialogue with NCI on a range of cancer research topics. NCI posts discussion topics related to NCI programs and priorities. Both advocacy groups and members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback and help shape the direction of future NCI activities.

Advocacy Outreach

OLA acts as a portal for cancer-related advocacy groups, helping them navigate the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health to gain information and achieve their organizations' goals. To keep advocates informed, OLA collects and disseminates Federal cancer news in a bi-weekly electronic newsletter, the NCI ADVOCATES E-NEWS. Listserv subscribers also receive additional e-mails regarding late-breaking cancer news and hot topic issues of importance to the community. OLA hosts teleconferences featuring speakers from government and industry about drug development issues, new clinical trial results, and other NCI programs of importance to advocates.

Meetings with Professional Society Leadership

NCI leadership meets periodically with leadership from key cancer professional societies to discuss science planning and potential partnership and outreach opportunities.

OLA works with all of these groups so that, together, we can ensure that those who are affected by cancer also inform NCI's efforts to lessen the burden of cancer.